

NORTH DAKOTA STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL
QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES
January 19, 2022

Members Present: Cynthia Goulet, Trevor Vannett, Renee Speidel-Wetzsteon, Jason Sutheimer, Cathy Quintane, Trampes Brown, Landis Larson, Jacey Enget, Shannon Cook, Damian Schlenger, Tina Bay, Bruce Murry, Jodi Webb, Matthew McCleary, Lea Kugel

Members Absent: Terry Peterson, Russ Cusack

Call to Order: Renee Speidel-Wetzsteon called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A quorum was present.

Action: A motion to accept the agenda was made by Matthew McCleary and seconded by Bruce Murry. Motion carried.

Action: A motion to approve the October 2021 minutes was made by Matt McCleary and seconded by Jodi Webb. Motion carried.

DVR Regional II Update – Peter Yung

Staff – 7 Counselors, 1 Rehab technician, 1 Business Service Specialist, 1 Vision Rehab Specialist, 1 Support Staff, 1 Regional Administrator. Region II provides services to 7 counties and the Fort Berthold Reservation. Counselors serve specific outreach areas and high schools. Region has Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) transition contracts with four school districts. Bishop Ryan Catholic School is the 1st private school in the state to request and receive Pre-ETS services through VR contract. General statistics: 20 successful closures, 83 new applicants, 271 employer contacts, participated in 64 IEP/Group Presentations, outreached to 1,168 individuals on VR services, 18 businesses have qualified for the CE/SE tax credits. Challenging year with COVID. High staff turnover both for VR and CRPs. Region received the following awards at the VR Annual Training:

- Roosevelt Park Zoo – You Make a Difference Award
- Masa Area – Employer of the Year Honorable Mention
- Director Award for Excellence Award
- Exemplary Case Work Award
- Rookies of the Year Award
- Community Participation Award

DVR Region VIII Update – Tom Schiwal

Serve 10 counties including the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. Standing Rock VR lost its grant last July-school continues to partner with VR to set up intakes and meetings with students. Region has 8 counselors, 1 Business Services Specialist, 1 Assessment Specialist 1 Vision Specialist. Counselors are assigned to every high school in the region. Average caseload is 63 cases per counselor. COVID-affected VR staffing, and CRP staffing. VR community projects:

Set up a vegetable stand in foyer for clients and staff to share in the garden harvests
Set up a stand of supplies needed for someone to be presentable for work (toothpaste, combs, etc.)
Installed ramp at elderly persons home who did not have resources to have one installed.
Furry Friends: Staff involved in rescuing animals and finding them homes.

Directors Update-Damian Schlenger

Reported on 6 themes from VR Strategic Planning Meeting-

- Advancement and Retention of VR staff
- Collaboration with sister agencies (DD, Behavior Health, etc.)
- Utilization of VR Business Services Specialists
- Service Advancement (services to clients)

- Remodel External Communication

Updated on Financial Participation Operational Policy, Sliding Scale fees, Statewide Needs Assessment, Order of Selection, and the VR leaders statewide in person consultations with all CRPs across the state.

Action: Trevor Vannett motioned to accept and approve the VR division go off Order of Selection and seconded by Bruce Murry. Motion carried.

SILC Update - Russ Cusack

The next meeting dates for the SILC are February 3-4. Meeting location is the Radisson Hotel Bismarck, 605 E Broadway Ave. In a December, SILC completed and submitted to the Administration for Community Living the Federal Fiscal Year 2021 Performance Progress Report. This report details the SILC progression accomplishing the objectives included in the State Plan. The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) is seeking two representatives in the Fargo or Jamestown region that would like to participate on the council. The SILC is seeking one representative in the Grand Forks or Devils Lake region.

Tribal Updates – no one present to give updates.

Bylaw Updates

Article VIII-Elections-Current Bylaws

The Chairperson shall be elected to serve a term of one (1) year.

The Chairperson Elect shall be elected to serve a term of one (1) year.

Article VIII-Elections-Amendments:

The Chairperson shall be elected to serve a term of one year. The Chair shall be elected annually and may serve up to three consecutive or non-consecutive terms.

The Chair Elect shall be elected to serve a term of one year. The Chair Elect shall be elected annually and may serve up to three consecutive or non-consecutive terms.

Action: A motion to approve the bylaw amendment for the Chair and Chair Elect was made by Trevor Vannett and seconded by Jodi Webb. Motion carried.

Election of the Chair

Action: A motion to elect Renee Speidel-Wetzsteon for the 2022 Chair was made by Bruce Murry and seconded by Jacey Enget. Motion carried. Unanimous yes vote from: Trevor Vannett, Jason Sutheimer, Trampes Brown, Landis Larson, Jacey Enget, Shannon Cook, Tina Bay, Bruce Murry, Jodi Webb, Matthew McCleary Lea Kugel, Cynthia Goulet.

Election of the Chair Elect

Action: A motion to nominate Jacey Enget was made by Trevor Vannett and seconded by Jason Sutheimer

Action: A motion was made by Jacey Enget to nominate Trevor Vannett and seconded by Jason Sutheimer. Vote yes for *Trevor Vannett*: Cynthia Goulet, Renee Speidel-Wetzsteon, Trampes Brown, Landis Larson, Shannon Cook, Tina Bay, Bruce Murry Jodi Webb, Trevor Vannett, Cynthia Goulet. Vote yes for *Jacey Enget*: Jason Sutheimer.

Membership/Public Relations Committee -Renee Speidel-Wetzsteon, Chair

Brandy Johnson has resigned as a Business Industry Representative-need to fill that position.

Jason Sutheimer will end his 2nd term in June as Business Industry Representative-need to fill that position.

Need more individuals with disabilities on the Council to meet the 51%. Committee will begin to review and make updates to the bylaws.

Planning/Evaluation Committee – Terry Peterson

Discussed the state plan currently being developed and reviewed policies.

Action: A motion to accept the Customized Employment and Financial Participation Operational Policies was made by Trevor Vannett and seconded by Bruce Murry. Motion carried.

Resource Committee – Jason Sutheimer, Chair

Reviewed Gallop Survey and discussed VR Staff Training and Succession planning.

Action: Jason will bring pertinent materials Job Service utilizes around these topics to the next meeting for further discussion.

Employment Committee – Bruce Murry, Chair

Patty Wanner presented a draft grant solicitation to award the funds received from the parking fees to be utilized for competitive integrated employment opportunities, per NDCC 39-01-15.

Action: A motion was made by Bruce Murry on behalf of the SRC and seconded by Jodi Webb to endorse the first draft of the competitive employment grant documents and authorizes VR staff to complete the documents in a way consistent with the authorizing language and the spirit of the rough draft. Motion carried.

Action: The SRC liaison will obtain formal permission from the Chair to change the name of the “Employment of People with Disabilities Committee to “Competitive Integrated Employment Committee.

Public Comment – Called for public comment-heard none.

Next meeting – April 20, 2022

10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. CST via TEAMS and in person

Action: A motion was made by Bruce Murry to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Jason Sutheimer. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm CT